(b) the rates of premium under this scheme for various categories; and

(c) whether senior citizens account holders would also be covered under the scheme, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The Vijaya Bank has entered into an agreement with the Life Insurance Corporation of India for providing Group Insurance coverage to all its Account holders aged between 18 years to 54 years. The coverage offered under this scheme is a Term assurance providing benefit only on death. If the death occurs due to natural causes, the claim benefit is Rs. one lakh and if death occurs due to accident, the claim benefit is Rs. two lakh. The annual premium for the age group 18 to 44 years is Rs. 325/- and for the age group 45 to 54 years is Rs. 575/-.

(c) The schemes are available only to account holders upto 54 years of age.

Winding of special deposit scheme

3284. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to wind up the special deposit scheme launched in 1975; and

(b) if so, who are the major investors in this scheme and the redemption obligation of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Recovery of income tax

†3285. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where the income tax recovery has decreased during 2001-2002;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the reasons for decrease;

(c) the steps taken by Government to enhance the income tax recovery; and

(d) whether the estimated income tax recovery in these States is likely to be made during 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The following are the States of India where the collections of Income Tax (including all Direct Taxes) decreased in 2001-2002 in comparison to the collections made in 2000-2001:

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Assam
3. Goa
4. Gujarat
5. Himachal Pradesh
6. Maharashtra
7. Manipur
8. Mizoram
9. Orissa
10. Punjab

(b) There was a general recession in the economy in 2001-2002 with the manufacturing sector growing at a rate of only 3.3% as compared to 6.6% obtaining in 2000-01. The exports also registered a negative growth of almost one percent during the same period. Moreover, the rate of inflation was also at its lowest at 1.6% during that period. These factors, together with the fact that 40% higher refunds were issued in 2001-2002, caused decrease in collections of direct taxes in these state.

(c) The Government has taken the following steps to enhance income tax collections in 2002-2003.

(i) Allocation of collection target up to the Range-level and closer monitoring and supervision of collections.

(ii) Scrutiny, Surveys and Search in suitable cases for creating strong deterrance effect.

(iii) Faster computerization for higher productivity and better verification of information.

(iv) Improvement of tax administration.

(d) At the all India level, the revised estimates for income tax (including Direct Taxes) for 2002-2003 have been achieved. The position of collections made in individual States is not yet available.

Increase in domestic borrowings

†3286. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that domestic borrowings of Government have been rising continuously for the last many years;

(b) if so, the said borrowings at the end of March, 1998 and at the end of December, 2002; and

(c) the reasons for increase in borrowings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The total internal debt of the Central Government increased from Rs. 388998 crore in 1997-98 to Rs. 1037163 crore in 2002-2003 (RE).

(c) The domestic borrowings have increased as the growth in Government expenditure has outpaced the growth in Government revenue receipt and non-debt capital receipts.

LICs policy for women

3287. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that LIC has launched a New policy for women to cover cancer;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.